



**Name of Project:** North Dakota Transportation Partnership for the Elderly and People with Disabilities

**Name of Organization:** North Dakota Aging Services Division and North Dakota Department of Transportation

**Principle of Choices for Independence:** Empowerment/Access to Information and Services

### **Description**

In January 2007, the North Dakota Aging Services Division and Department of Public Transportation partnered to improve and expand transportation services to the elderly and disabled individuals in communities across the state, including the four Native American Tribes, (Spirit Lake, Standing Rock, Three Affiliated, Turtle Mountain) and Trenton Indian Service area. This partnership incorporates the outstanding Older Americans Act Title III and Title VI coordination that already exists in the State.

In this rural/frontier state, the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) has agreed to pay for transportation services provided previously by the Aging Services Division. By using NDDOT funds vs. the Aging Services funding, services are being expanded and allowing more flexibility to meet the increasing needs of the limited English speaking, frail and vulnerable populations.

Through these transportation services, the elderly, disabled and those at high-risk of nursing home placement residing in North Dakota have an increased ability and opportunity to remain at home. They have more options available to get to doctors visits, stores and other needed services. Given some of the harsh winters in North Dakota, this will be an enormous benefit to consumers, who may not normally leave their homes during the winter months.

The Department of Transportation relies on the Aging Services Division to assist in identifying needs, gaps, and help to provide information and education about the services. In return, the Department of Transportation utilizes their funding to add routes and build a stronger transportation system. Currently routes for Title III and Title VI services have expanded on and near the Turtle Mountain Reservation (northeast North Dakota on the Canadian border) and near New Town (Three Affiliated Reservation) and Mandan. New routes are being designed and implemented to meet the consumer's needs.

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